

## **DEDICATION**

**KURT F. SCHIMKE**

**MARCH 30, 1952 - JANUARY 25, 1993**

These protocols are dedicated to the memory of the late **Kurt F. Schimke**, Chief of Police in Hanover, New Hampshire from October 12, 1987 until his death on January 25, 1993. The memory of Chief Schimke's work inspired us during the entirety of our efforts. His intense desire to improve the services provided to victims of domestic violence was always on our minds.

# PREFACE

Nationwide, domestic violence is an enormous public safety problem, as it is in New Hampshire. Each year in our state, over 5,700 victims of domestic violence seek assistance from crisis centers, and it is currently the leading cause of homicide in the state. Recognizing the need to proactively address this critical social problem, the State of New Hampshire has made a strong commitment to work to reduce the incidence of domestic violence in our society and to meet the needs of those most affected.

Domestic violence includes physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse used by one partner in a relationship to maintain power and control over the other partner. It occurs in families from all economic, educational, racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Ninety-five percent of the victims of spousal abuse are women, and it is estimated that three to four million women are beaten each year in our country. Violence in one generation encourages violence in the next generation, creating a cycle of abuse. Almost two-thirds of the men who abuse their partners witnessed abuse or were abused as children, and witnessing domestic violence is the single best predictor of juvenile delinquency and adult criminality for males.

In September 1993, New Hampshire Governor Stephen Merrill created the Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence, representing all branches of government and those agencies and individuals who work with victims of domestic violence. The mission of the Governor's Commission is to develop and implement a program to bring about a reduction in the level and seriousness of domestic violence incidents and to increase awareness among the public, governmental and private agencies and the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of government, of the causes, effects and magnitude of domestic violence.

The Commission created four committees, each focusing on separate goals; Public Education, Protocol, Victim Services and Batterer Intervention. The Public Education Committee conducted statewide public hearings and recognized that there were significant inconsistencies in the handling of cases and in the treatment of victims of domestic violence throughout the state. In response, the Protocol Committee was charged with developing and implementing multidisciplinary protocols to standardize the handling of cases among all of the disciplines that work with domestic violence cases. These protocols are the result of that effort.

Each of these protocols outlines the responses within various professions that would best help break the cycle of violence, by offering safety and support for victims and accountability for abusers. Within each of the professional disciplines addressed in these protocols, however, it is important to remember that there could be acknowledged victims and batterers. Therefore it is essential, when reviewing these protocols, that organizations also realize they have a responsibility to not only screen for victims and abusers among their clients, and those with whom they work, but also among themselves. Domestic violence knows no boundaries, and occurs among all racial, ethnic, socio-economic, religious and occupational groups. Assumptions about who could possibly be a victim or an abuser can be dangerous, and could put victims seeking services from your organization in danger. When developing your own guidelines or procedures for the handling of domestic violence, based on these protocols, it is important to include guidelines for handling domestic violence among your own staff.

Throughout these protocols, there are many references to agencies in New Hampshire that deal directly with domestic violence. These include domestic violence service programs (crisis centers), domestic violence coordinating councils, and batterer intervention programs. A complete listing of these types of programs is included with every set of protocols, or each individual protocol.

Because of different distribution strategies for each protocol, you may have received only the protocol geared specifically to your profession. Thirteen protocols have been developed, including:

- Law Enforcement
- Prosecution
- Superior Court
- District Court
- Parole and Probation
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Division for Children, Youth and Families
- Victim Services
- Clergy
- Education
- Employee Assistance Programs
- Visitation Centers

If you would like a complete set of protocols, or one of the protocols you did not receive, please contact:

Sandra Matheson, Director  
Office of Victim/Witness Assistance  
Department of Justice  
33 Capitol Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

The Commission encourages duplication and distribution of these protocols among all professions. We view this project as only a beginning and will continue our efforts to reduce the trauma experienced by victims by improving available services and by encouraging enhanced collaboration and support.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As Co-Chairs of the **Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence Protocol Committee**, we would like to acknowledge the many people who have contributed their time and effort toward the successful completion of this project.

To the members of the **Protocol Committee** who devoted so much time, energy and expertise into the development of the Protocols, we owe them our gratitude and respect.

In addition, we would like to thank the following:

**Governor Stephen Merrill**, for creating the Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence and for his support of the issue.

**Attorney General Jeffrey R. Howard**, for his constant support and for his inspiration and contribution to the Law Enforcement Protocol.

**Judge Edwin W. Kelley**, Administrative Justice of the District Courts, for originally bringing us all together to tackle the issue of domestic violence in New Hampshire.

All of the **members of the Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence** for their assistance and support and **Commissioner of Education Elizabeth Twomey**, for taking over the role of Chair.

**Judge Gillian Sheehan-Abramson**, Superior Court Justice, for her contribution as the former Chair of the Commission.

**Elizabeth Paine, Esquire**, the **Coordinator of the District Court Domestic Violence Coordinating Councils**, for her assistance in reviewing and distributing the Protocols.

**Dover Police Chief William Fenniman, Jr.**, former **Nashua Police Chief Raymond Landry**, **Grantham Police Chief Russell Lary**, **Plymouth Police Chief Daniel Libby**, **Concord Police Chief David Walchak**, **Major Fred Booth** of the **New Hampshire State Police**, **Attorney Kim Chabot** of the **Concord City Prosecutor's Office** and **Diane Hufstader** of the **Administrative Office of the District Courts** for their valuable input into the Law Enforcement Protocol.

Special thanks to **Earl Sweeney**, **Director of the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council** who served as a valued mentor, teacher, advisor and Editor to the Criminal Justice Sub-Committee.

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**Department of Justice** secretary, **Dianne Dymont** and **New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence** secretary, **Carol Heath** for all of their time and assistance in putting the Protocols together.

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**New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council Model Policy and Procedure and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Domestic Violence: A Model Protocol for Police Response**, for providing the model for the Law Enforcement Protocol.

**The New Hampshire Medical Society** for distributing the Medical Protocol statewide.

**The Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center** for providing the model for the Medical Protocol.

**The New York Department of Public Health and the New York Office for Prevention of Domestic Violence** and the **New York Medical Society**, for contributing to the Medical Protocol.

**The State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs** and the **Division of Women** for providing a model for the Education Protocol.

**The Massachusetts Coalition of Battered Women** for providing the Visitation Center Guidelines which were cited in our text.

**Polaroid Corporation, Liz Claiborne,** and the **Family Violence Prevention Fund** for supplying information helpful in the development of the Employee Assistance Protocol.

**Center for the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence** for materials used in drafting the Clergy Protocol.

**Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the National Resource Center** for materials helpful in the development of many of the protocols, including the Mental Health Protocol.

We would like to extend a special thank you to the **Chairs of each sub-committee** who were responsible for coordinating their respective sections of the Protocol.

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**Captain William Halacy**, Concord Police Department  
**Major Keith Lohmann**, Police Standards & Training Council

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**Dalia Vidunas**, Program Specialist

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**Linda Griebisch**, A Safe Place

**Lynda Ruel**, Carroll County Against Domestic Violence & Rape

**EDUCATION**

**Sandra Matheson**, Department of Justice

**Grace Mattern**, N.H. Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Our hope is that these Protocols will be another step towards reaching our goal of zero tolerance for domestic violence in New Hampshire, towards ending the cycle of violence within our families, and towards assisting all of you in assuring that victims of domestic violence in New Hampshire are treated with respect and dignity.

Sandra Matheson, Director  
Office of Victim/Witness Assistance  
Department of Justice

Grace Mattern, Co-Director  
New Hampshire Coalition  
Against Domestic & Sexual Violence



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